

# North Carolina Education and Workforce Innovation Program



House Study Committee  
on Education Innovation  
Presentation

April 23, 2014

# Purpose

The Education and Workforce Innovation Fund was established during the 2013 legislative session to accelerate successful innovative programs that combine academic rigor and skills development with the goal of graduating every student both college and career ready.

Objectives of the competitive fund include:

1. Ensure **all students possess job-ready skills**;
2. **Provide greater choice** for parents/guardians among high-quality public education options;
3. **Enhance teacher and principal effectiveness**;
4. **Leverage technology** to accelerate student and teacher learning; and
5. **Align public schools with business and industry** and colleges/universities.

# Commission

The Education and Workforce Commission is charged with establishing and overseeing the competitive grant program.

Commission membership includes:

- Billie Redmond, CEO of Trademark Properties, Commission Chair
- Clifton Vann, President, Livingston & Haven
- Judy Irwin, Vice President – Human Resources, Golden Corral
- Robin Comer, County Commissioner, Carteret County
- Michael Martini, HR Manager, Ball Corporation
- Rod Webb, Senior Vice President and Raleigh City Executive, NewBridge Bank
- Sharon Decker, Secretary of Commerce
- June Atkinson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Bill Cobey, Chairman, State Board of Education
- Tom Ross, President, UNC System
- Scott Ralls, President, NC Community College System

# Fund Categories

Schools, districts and regional consortiums were required to explicitly link proposals to economic development and post-secondary education. Applicants competed for designation to implement innovations in one of three categories:

## Schools

*Existing comprehensive and charter schools or new proposals for career academies, charter schools, STEM schools, or cooperative innovative early college high schools.*

## Districts

*Local Education Agencies or feeder patterns of schools statewide. Must appoint a senior leader to manage and sustain the change process.*

## Regions

*More than one Local Education Authority in partnership with an institution of higher education.*

# **Core Proposal Elements**

Essential to each proposal are the following five core elements:

**Industry Partnerships**

**Parent and Community Involvement**

**Teacher and Administrator Development**

**Higher Education Partnership**

**Meaningful Use of Technology**

# Program Timeline

Date	Milestone
Fall 2013	Commission appointed
October 2013	First Commission meeting
November 2013	Application released
December 2013	Application due
January-February 2014	Application review by Commission and Joint Advisory Committee
March 2014	Grants awarded
May 2014	Funding released
Summer 2014	Grant work begins

# First Year Investments

31 applications were received, representation 43 LEAs  
11 grants were approved by the Commission

## Grantees Include:

Beaufort County Schools;  
Buncombe County Schools;  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools;  
Chatham, Harnett, and Lee County Schools;  
Davidson County, Lexington City, and Thomasville City Schools;  
Duplin County Schools;  
Durham County Schools;  
Granville, Franklin, Vance, and Warren County Schools;  
Rutherford County Schools;  
Surry County Schools; and  
Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools

